

The **NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY** is the central fire service agency in the State and is responsible for the development and enforcement of the State Uniform Fire Code, public fire safety education programs and firefighter training programs. It is housed within the State's Department of Community Affairs.

For more information on fire safety, visit the Division's Web site at:

www.nj.gov/dca/dfs

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Space Heaters - *USE THEM SAFELY!*



James E. McGreevey
Governor
State of
New Jersey



Susan Bass Levin
Commissioner
Department of
Community Affairs



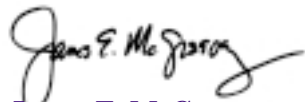
Lawrence Petrillo
*State Fire Marshal
and Director*
Division of Fire Safety

***Greetings from
Governor McGreevey, Commissioner Levin,
and Fire Marshal Petrillo***

As fuel prices rise each year, more and more residents of New Jersey are purchasing space heaters to supplement their main heating systems. As the use of these heaters increases, so does the potential for hazards. Small children, in particular, run the risk of being burned by the hot surfaces of “space” or “portable” heaters, but everyone is exposed to additional dangers when these heaters are used. So if you choose to use a space heater this winter, you’ll be safer, as well as warmer, if you take the time to install a smoke detector in the room in which your portable heater is used.

Of the most common types of space heaters, radiant electric heaters with no exposed heating elements are the safest to use. But if you use a heater that consumes fuel, such as a kerosene heater or a wood- or coal-burning stove, you should be aware that fuel-fired heaters pose the additional threat of carbon monoxide poisoning, and should be used only in conjunction with a smoke detector AND a carbon monoxide detector. We’d like to see you be warm this winter, but we want you to be safe as well!

With all good wishes,



James E. McGreevey
Governor



Susan Bass Levin
Commissioner



Lawrence Petrillo
State Fire Marshal

KEROSENE HEATERS

Kerosene heaters are illegal in all but one- and two-family homes in New Jersey, and are completely banned in some communities. ***Use kerosene heaters only where their use is approved by your local municipality!*** If your town does permit them, remember that they can still be extremely dangerous if not used correctly. If you must use one, be sure to carefully observe the following safety rules:

- * Use only clear (1-K) kerosene. Never use gasoline or any other substitute fuel. Be sure that the wick is set at the recommended height, and that the room is adequately ventilated. Store kerosene outdoors, in approved containers clearly marked “Kerosene.” Always refill the heater’s tank outside, and turn off the heater and let it cool before attempting to refuel (fuel hitting a hot surface could ignite). Fill only until the fuel gauge indicates “full.”

- * Avoid direct contact with the heater. Use a protective cage to prevent children and pets from coming into contact with the heater.

- * Never use any heater to heat food or water, or to dry wet clothing. Never attempt to move a kerosene heater while it’s in use.

Wood & Coal Stoves

Wood and coal stoves can be warm, comfortable and economical, but they too can be dangerous if used incorrectly. Before you have a wood or coal stove installed, first obtain an installation permit from your local construction official. Then secure the services of a qualified installer. This is one job you shouldn’t try to do yourself! These are safety precautions you should follow when you use a wood or coal stove:

- * Use only coal in coal stoves, and only seasoned wood in wood stoves.

- * Store fuel at a safe distance from the stove.

- * Don’t use lighter fluid or other flammable liquids to help start the fire.

- * Place ashes in a suitable metal container and take outdoors immediately.

- * Always use a fire screen and keep the stove door closed. Have your stove, its ductwork and chimney cleaned each year.

Electric Heaters

- * Don’t buy an electric heater unless it bears the label of an independent testing laboratory and has a tipover switch that will shut off the current if the unit is knocked over.

- * Position all space heaters well away from all flammable materials such as curtains, draperies, newspapers and magazines, shag rugs and clothing.

- * Keep the heater away from water, and never touch it if you’re wet.

- * If the cord or plug is hot to the touch, shut off the heater and unplug it.